

Earlier this week, the nonpartisan General Accounting Office, GAO, reported that coordination is fragmented between 40 Federal departments and agencies responsible for responding to a bioterrorist attack.

The GAO report also noted insufficient State and local planning for response to terrorist attacks. In addition, while spending on domestic preparedness for terrorist attacks has risen 310 percent since 1998, only a portion of these funds were used to conduct research on and prepare for the public health and medical consequences of a bioterrorist attack.

To better address the needs of State and local communities in dealing with the threat of bioterrorism, I recently joined Senators EDWARDS and HAGEL on legislation called the Biological and Chemical Weapons Preparedness Act.

Our legislation provides \$1.6 billion in new resources for Federal, State, and local efforts, including \$450 million specifically for agricultural counterterrorism and food safety measures.

Too often, bioterrorism funding has been tied up in the bureaucracy of Washington, and I'm pleased that our legislation sends over one-third of these funds, \$555 million, directly to States and local governments through new block grants. Our legislation gives States and local communities the resources to study the problems unique to them and implement appropriate solutions.

Our legislation would accomplish six goals. First, we would provide training and equipment to State and local "first responders," such as emergency medical personnel, law enforcement officials, fire fighters, physicians, and nurses, to recognize and respond to biological and chemical attacks.

Second, our bill strengthens the local public health network through increased training, coordination, and additional specialized equipment.

Third, we protect food safety and the agricultural economy by providing assistance to States to better coordinate with law enforcement and public health officials, increase training and awareness among farmers and other agricultural stakeholders. Our measure would also give States the resources they need to establish emergency diagnostic facilities to work in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's facility to quickly diagnose animal diseases. Along with this assistance to States, the measure would provide additional funds for the USDA's counterterrorism efforts.

Fourth, the legislation assists local hospital emergency rooms with response training and biocontainment and decontamination capabilities.

Fifth, we address the need to develop and stockpile vaccines and antibiotics.

Finally, our Biological and Chemical Weapons Preparedness Act enhances disease surveillance between the Centers for Disease Control, CDC, and State and local public health services to provide electronic nationwide access

to critical data, treatment guidelines, and alerts.

Our legislation has been referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, and there have already been a handful of hearings held so far. I anticipate a number of proposals, similar to ours, being discussed and a compromise ultimately being sent to the President this year.

I will continue to work to ensure that the provisions in our legislation dealing with rural communities and agriculture remain in a final version that is signed into law by the President.

ONE-MONTH ANNIVERSARY OF TERRORIST ATTACKS

Mrs. CARNAHAN. Mr. President, grief has changed the face of America. We are a tear-stained Nation. But today, one month after the September 11 attacks, we are one America, united as seldom before.

Patriotism prevails throughout the country. The pins on our jackets, the flags taped to cars and hanging from windows, the millions of dollars in donations to the victims, this is the American response to tragedy.

We are united in support of our troops flying dangerous missions over Afghanistan. This is the first step in a prolonged campaign against the terrorists. It is a necessary step and it is directed at the right targets, the Taliban government that has given safe harbor to terrorist organizations for far too long.

Americans are also united in sympathy with the Afghan people. While our bombers are flying over Taliban strongholds, our C-17s are dropping food to the refugees.

Today, our thoughts are with those who lost their lives one month ago, and with the families who said goodbye to their loved ones for the last time.

But in the past month, we have seen the great spirit of Americans. The hatred and utter disregard for human life shown by the terrorists stands in stark contrast to the outpouring of sympathy and compassion by millions of Americans, in acts great and small. We gave what we could: Money, water, shelter, blood, and sometimes just a shoulder to lean on. Entertainers came together for an unprecedented benefit, athletes donated their salaries, and children even donated their piggy banks.

Among the most inspiring stories of September 11 were the rescue workers. Sadly, many of the heroes of September 11 are now among the victims. Their valor has inspired the Nation. Their sacrifice will not go unnoted or their deeds unsung. If those rescue workers could muster the strength to do what was needed then, surely our Nation can find the strength to do what is needed now.

We must prepare our military, strengthen our intelligence operations, and tighten our security. And we must rally behind our President.

Let those who practice terrorism or harbor terrorists have no doubt about America's intent. We will find you. We will strike you militarily, economically, and politically. And you will pay a heavy price for your acts against mankind.

We have overcome the enemies of freedom before. We conquered the evil of fascism in Europe and Asia, rescued democracy, and built a better world. We defied communism for decades powered by the certainty that freedom would ultimately triumph over oppression. You will not take these gains from us.

Though we mourn the loss of our fellow Americans, our eyes are undimmed by tears. Our dreams are undiminished by fear. From the ashes of terrorism, we will build a new tower to freedom that will cast its light around the world.

And, with God's help, we will prove again what the poet Carl Sandburg once said: "We are Americans. Nothing like us ever was."

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, statistics show that a woman is raped every five minutes in the United States and that one in every three adult women experiences at least one physical assault by a partner during adulthood. In fact, more women are injured by domestic violence each year than by automobile accidents and cancer deaths combined.

October, as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, is a good time to take a serious look at the progress we've made in addressing the problem of abuse against women in our communities. In 1983, I introduced legislation in the South Dakota State Legislature to use marriage license fees to help fund domestic abuse shelters. At that time, thousands of South Dakota women and children were in need of shelters and programs to help them. However, few people wanted to acknowledge that domestic abuse occurred in their communities, or even in their homes.

During the last 7 years, I have led efforts in the United States Congress to authorize the original Violence Against Women Act, VAWA, and, most recently, expand and improve the program to assist rural communities. South Dakota has received over \$8 million in VAWA funds for women's shelters and family violence prevention services. In addition the law has doubled prison time for repeat sex offenders, established mandatory restitution to victims of violence against women, and strengthened interstate enforcement of violent crimes against women. South Dakotans can also call a nationwide toll-free hotline for immediate crisis intervention help and free referrals to local services. The number for women to call for help is 1-800-799-SAFE.